

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

All claims currently being amended are shown with deleted text struckthrough or double bracketed and new text underlined. Additionally, the status of each claim is indicated in parenthetical expression following the claim number.

Claims 1-24 remain in this application.

Claims 1-16 and 21-24 are being cancelled.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. – 16. (Cancelled)

17. (Original) A conveyor type oven for processing food comprising:

an oven housing forming an oven cavity, the oven housing having an inlet opening and an exit opening each in communication with the oven cavity;

a conveyor system disposed through the inlet opening, the oven cavity, and the exit opening for transporting food products through the oven cavity for processing the transported food product;

a first heating section forming a first heating zone disposed within the oven housing positioned on one side of the conveyor, the first heating section including a flat bar radiant heat emitter focusing radiant heat toward the conveyor;

a second heating section disposed within the oven housing and positioned on an opposing side of the conveyor from the first heating section, the second heating section having an inlet heating zone and an outlet heating zone, each of the inlet and outlet heating zones having a ceramic heat emitter having a concave face directing radiant heat therefrom substantially toward the conveyor; and

a temperature control system connected to the heat emitters of the first heating zone, the inlet heating zone, and the outlet heating zone in a manner to monitor and selectively control the temperature of each heating zone separately from the temperature control of the other heating zones.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the temperature control system substantially maintains the first heating zone at a first set temperature.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the temperature control system substantially maintains the inlet heating zone and the outlet heating zone at a second set temperature.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the temperature control system substantially maintains the inlet heating zone and the outlet heating zone at a second set temperature.

21. - 24. (Cancelled)